

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A format for optical analysis of samples comprising:
a light input;
an input light guide in optical communication with said light input;
an input reflector in optical communication with said input light guide;
an output reflector in optical communication with said input reflector;
a sample cavity disposed between said input reflector and said output reflector;
an output light guide in optical communication with said output reflector; and
a light output,
wherein said light input, said input light guide, said input reflector, said output reflector, said output light guide, and said light output comprise an approximately planar light transmission path, said format further comprising a lid disposed approximately parallel to said light transmission path.
2. (Original) The format of claim 1 further comprising a venting channel connected to said sample cavity.
3. (Original) The format of claim 1 wherein said input light guide defines an input light path, and wherein said input reflector is disposed at about a 45-degree angle to said input light path.
4. (Original) The format of claim 3 wherein said output light guide defines an output light path, and wherein said output reflector is disposed at about a 45-degree angle to said output light path.
5. (Original) The format of claim 1 further comprising a reagent disposed within said sample cavity.

6. (Original) The format of claim 5 wherein at least a portion of said lid adjacent said sample cavity is provided with a reagent thereon.

7. (Original) The format of claim 1 wherein said format is adapted to be used with a measuring instrument having source optics and wherein said input light guide is of sufficient length to isolate said sample cavity from said source optics.

8. (Original) A format for optical analysis of a sample comprising:
an input light guide having an input reflector disposed at one end thereof;
an output light guide having an output reflector disposed at one end thereof; and
a light transmission segment disposed between said input reflector and said output reflector, said light transmission segment so disposed as to allow light to travel through a light transmission path between said input reflector and said output reflector, said light transmission segment further having a sample cavity and a lid, said lid not intersecting said light transmission path.

9. (Original) The format of claim 8 wherein said lid has a reagent printed thereon.

10. (Original) The format of claim 8 further comprising a vent connected to said sample cavity.

11. (Original) The format of claim 8 wherein said input light guide has an input light guide height and said light transmission segment has a light transmission segment height greater than said input light guide height.

12. (Original) The format of claim 11 wherein said input light guide has a height of approximately 0.04 inches and said light transmission segment has a height of approximately 0.08 inches.

13. (Original) The format of claim 8 wherein said input light guide defines an input light path and said input reflector is disposed at an angle of about 45 degrees from said input light path.

14. (Original) The format of claim 8 wherein said output light guide defines an output light path and said output reflector is disposed at an angle of about 45 degrees from said output light path.

Claims 15-20 (Cancelled)

21. (New) The format of claim 8 further including a lancet having a first end for collecting test material and a second end for depositing test material within said sample cavity.

22. (New) The format of claim 8 wherein said sample cavity has main cavity portion and a venting cavity connected to said main cavity portion, said main cavity portion having a width of about 0.007 inches.

23. (New) The format of claim 8 wherein said sample cavity has main cavity portion and a venting cavity connected to said main cavity portion, said venting cavity having a width of about 0.003 inches or narrower.

24. (New) The format of claim 8 wherein said sample cavity has main cavity portion and a venting cavity connected to said main cavity portion, said main cavity portion having a width of about 0.005 inches and said venting cavity having a width of about 0.002 inches.